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Program Status  
Project Policy*

SR/DOB/62-197

20 July 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, Plans

SUBJECT: Proposed Participation of CIA UW Assets  
in Military Training Exercises

1. This memorandum requests approval of subject training proposed in paragraph 8.

2. Project AEDEPOT, administered by SR/DOB, is SR Division's mechanism for the spotting, assessment, recruitment, training and holding of assets in the fulfillment of UW requirements levied by JCS upon CIA for agents to serve as reception teams for Special Forces troops, the establishment of communication networks, E & E, observation and reporting, and so forth. Current agent assets represent all major components of the USSR and the majority were born in the ethnic areas which would be their wartime target areas.

3. During their basic 16-week training these agents are given an intensive course covering W/T, air operations, observation and reporting, E & E, mapping and compass, small arms, demolitions, sabotage and so forth. Thereafter they are afforded refresher/advanced training through assignments and summer reserve training periods.

4. All AEDEPOT agents have been recruited by a "hot-war" pitch for commitment into their respective ethnic areas; however, during late 1960, upon the request of WH Division, these agents were screened for WH needs and of approximately twenty-five contacted, twenty were available and volunteered their services for "cold-war" action in the Western Hemisphere where they subsequently served in a variety of assignments which they performed very well. During late 1961, EE Division anticipated a need for agents in connection with the Berlin crisis and called upon SR for a 12-man group. A review of the agents' files indicated eighteen agents possessed knowledge of the Polish language--a prerequisite for the assignment. Of the eighteen, fifteen who were readily available volunteered their services and were brought to Washington where they were given special training in line with EE Division's anticipated needs. These fifteen have since constituted a stand-by group pending the recruitment and training of sufficient agents for EE.

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5. Despite these encouraging results, it has long been the contention of DOB that the ultimate profitable exercise and test of the program's efficiency would be that of holding joint exercises with Special Forces in the European Theater. Such participation would be approached on a very selective basis through the use of only the outstanding members (potential team leaders) who would not only enhance their own capabilities and confidence, but would demonstrate to the Special Forces the type of support they could expect from this Agency's clandestine personnel in time of hostilities. It is believed that such participation on the part of SR assets, operating in areas well removed from their wartime targets, documented in alias and transported to and from Europe by DPD "black flights" would keep security risks at a minimum.

6. In conjunction with the above, it is believed that the second string remaining agents could be afforded realistic training through their participation in a U. S. joint military training exercise.

7. With the above as the eventual SR aims, the AEDEPOT project officer has been nominated to War Plans Staff as an Agency observer representative for the forthcoming Special Forces training exercise in the European Theater during October 1962. Concurrently, the AEDEPOT training officer has been nominated as an Agency observer representative for the CINCSTRIKE ZI training exercise to be conducted during August 1962. In addition to any over-all value the Agency may receive from this participation, these SR officers will be able to determine firsthand how best the SR wartime assets could profitably be incorporated into realistic war gaming programs.

8. It is therefore recommended that the DD/P ruling which precludes the utilization of externally held wartime assets in peacetime European military maneuvers be amended and that authorization be granted SR to plan for possible 1963 participation of SR AEDEPOT assets in both the European Special Forces training maneuvers and a major joint military training exercise in the United States.

HOWARD J. OSBORN  
Deputy Chief, SR Division

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